

JSW
MCM
Powers

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204X (POWERS & SGT)

SECOND LEAD CONGRESS-POWERS (300)

WASHINGTON, FEB. 14 (AP)—CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., SAID TODAY THAT U2 PILOT FRANCIS GARY POWERS WILL BE CALLED BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR TESTIMONY IF COMMITTEE MEMBERS WISH.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME RUSSELL SAID AGENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ARE ENTITLED TO FINISH THEIR OWN INTERVIEWS FIRST.

RUSSELL SAID DIRECTOR JOHN A. MCCONE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS PROMISED HIS COMMITTEE "WILL BE FULLY BRIEFED AS TO ALL THE FACTS IN THE CASE."

THE SENATOR'S STATEMENT CAME ON THE HEELS OF WORD FROM PRESIDENT KENNEDY THAT POWERS WILL BE FREE TO TESTIFY IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AFTER A SERIES OF INTERROGATIONS IS COMPLETED.

AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE, KENNEDY SAID THE 32-YEAR-OLD FLIER IS "COOPERATING VOLUNTARILY WITH THE GOVERNMENT" IN THE INQUIRY NOW BEING CARRIED OUT, AND IS A "FREE AGENT."

POWERS, IMPRISONED AS A SPY AFTER HIS HIGH-FLYING RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WAS DOWNED FAR INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION, WAS FREED SATURDAY IN EXCHANGE FOR RUDOLF ABEL, CONVICTED IN THIS COUNTRY AS A SOVIET MASTER SPY. SINCE HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES POWERS HAS BEEN KEPT IN SECLUSION WITH ONLY HIS WIFE AND PARENTS TAKEN TO SEE HIM.

RUSSELL SAID, IN A STATEMENT, HE WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT "SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS THINK THAT MR. POWERS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNDER THE KENNEDY LEGISLATION BEFORE HE WAS EVEN RELEASED BY THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT."

RUSSELL SAID AN ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CIA WAS ADVISED OF "NEGOTIATION THEN UNDER WAY FOR THE EXCHANGE THAT RESULTED IN THE RELEASE OF MR. FRANCIS POWERS."

HE ADDED THAT MCCONE "HAS OFFERED TO MAKE MR. POWERS AVAILABLE FOR A HEARING BY THE COMMITTEE IF THE COMMITTEE SO DESIRES."

"THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WHICH HAS LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OVER THE CIA WILL GET ALL OF THE INFORMATION IN REGARD TO THIS CASE IN DUE SEASON, BUT THE COMMITTEE THINKS IT PROPER TO AWAIT THE COMPLETION OF THE INQUIRY NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH," RUSSELL ADDED.

KENNEDY SAID CONGRESS WILL GET THE PRODUCT OF THAT INQUIRY.

"AT THE CONCLUSION ETC., 4 TH GRAF 1174X

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